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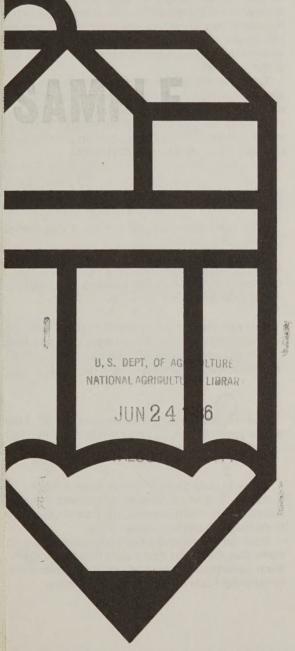
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Business of Farming

Quik-Quiz



ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HOW TO USE THE BOOKLET

This booklet is adapted from a computerized quiz at the U.S. Department of Agriculture exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Illinois.

You can use the booklet to discover a series of

interesting items about food and farms.

You will find 20 multiple choice questions in this subject matter category. There are four A-B-C-D answers to each question. One answer is correct. However, you will find some interesting comments about each of the A-B-C-D answers. The correct answer to each question is given in a key at the end of the booklet.

You can quiz and score yourself on what you already know, simply by answering the multiple choice questions *before* you read any of the comments which follow the questions. Or you can score yourself on how well you can pick the correct answers *after* reading the comments.

HOW TO SCORE YOURSELF

After each questio	n you	I WIII S	ee a II	ne tna	t says	5.
Rank your choice:						
You can do that by	y putt	ing the	e most	likely	of the	е
A-B-C-D answers firs	st, and	d the l	east lik	cely la	st. Th	en
rate the middle two.	Your	answe	ers to a	ques	tion	
might look like this:	C	Α	В	D		

You can then score yourself easily. Check your answers with the key at the back. Let's say that "C" is the correct answer. Just look under the "C" in your answer and circle the 5 like this:

Now suppose the correct answer is "B". Look under your "B" answer and circle the 1 like this:

 $\begin{array}{c|ccccc}
C & A & B & D \\
\hline
5 & 3 & 1 & 0
\end{array}$

There is only one correct answer to each question. The three remaining answers are all wrong. Your score is based on how close you come to putting the correct answer first.

Now, go ahead and select your answers, and have some fun. Read the comments that accompany each possible answer, and you'll discover many interesting facts about food and farming.

864319

IF YOU WERE FARMING IN ILLINOIS, WHICH CROP WOULD YOU MOST LIKELY GROW?

A. Wheat

B. Corn

C. Rice

D. Soybeans

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. WHEAT

Wheat grows well in Illinois. It must compete with other crops which also grow well and bring farmers more money per acre.

B. CORN

Nearly half of the 23 million acres of crops harvested in Illinois in 1975 were planted to corn. Illinois has excellent soils and an excellent climate for growing corn.

C. RICE

Rice is a warm weather crop which requires a lot of water. Conditions for rice are best in Arkansas, California, Louisiana and Texas.

D. SOYBEANS

Illinois farmers planted more than 8 million acres of soybeans in 1975. Illinois is the No. 1 soybean state.

2. FARMERS GET THE MOST CASH INCOME FROM WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FARM PRODUCTS?

A. Hogs

B. Cattle and Calves

C. Corn

D. Hay

Rank your choices:

1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. HOGS

Hogs are called "mortgage lifters" because year after year they return a dependable income to farmers. Farmers received \$7.4 billion in cash for hogs sold in 1976.

B. CATTLE AND CALVES

Cattle and calves brought farmers \$19.4 billion in cash in 1976—\$8 billion more than from dairy products. The beef cattle business is more risky than dairying. You can do well feeding beef cattle one year and lose heavily the next.

C. CORN

Corn is king among grains. It brought farmers \$9.8 billion in cash in 1976. Soybeans were second: \$8.0 billion. Wheat brought in \$5.6 billion. About half of the \$94 billion in cash farm income in 1976 was from crops and half from livestock and livestock products.

D. HAY

Hay probably is grown on more farms than any other crop in the United States. It brought farmers nearly \$1½ billion in cash in 1976—and that ain't hay. That's more cash than from crops such as potatoes, rice, peanuts, barley and tomatoes.

3. WOULD YOU SAY THAT A FAMILY FARM IS MOST LIKELY:

A. A small farm

B. A farm owned by a family

C. A farm inherited in the family

D. A farm using mainly family labor

Rank your choices:

1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. A SMALL FARM

Some family farms are small, others are average or larger than average. The number of acres, or the amount of income, do not determine whether it's a family farm. Fifty acres of wheat is small; 50 acres of strawberries is big.

B. A FARM OWNED BY A FAMILY

Many family farms are owned by a farm family. But some farms owned by one family are huge operations that won't qualify as family farms.

C. A FARM INHERITED IN THE FAMILY

Many family farms are inherited. But others that are inherited are not family farms. It takes so much money to get started farming these days it is said that the best way to start is to marry a farmer's only child.

D. A FARM USING MAINLY FAMILY LABOR

The family that operates a family farm supplies much of the labor to do the farming. They might hire some seasonal help, but the family does much of the work, makes the management decisions and takes the risks.

4. WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE MAIN REASON FARMS ARE GETTING LARGER IS BECAUSE:

- A. Farmers are getting richer
- B. Corporations are taking over
- C. A farmer can handle more land
- D. Farm land is so cheap

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. FARMERS ARE GETTING RICHER

Farm land values are generally increasing, so most farm owners are better off "on paper." But they can "cash in" on that increased value only if they sell their land and do something else for a living.

B. CORPORATIONS ARE TAKING OVER

There are more corporate farms today. Most of them are small family corporations. A relatively small number of our farms are big corporation farms; some of them aren't large in acreage, but are in income.

C. A FARMER CAN HANDLE MORE LAND

A farmer with a team of horses and hand tools couldn't handle very many acres. With today's machinery a farmer can farm many more acres—and needs to in order to pay for the equipment, the fuel, the fertilizer and chemicals he needs.

D. FARM LAND IS SO CHEAP

Farm land is cheap compared with city lots. But an acre of farm land must produce enough to pay for itself, including interest. In this respect, farm land is expensive—you have to farm an acre years before it pays for itself.

5. IN TOTAL VALUE OF ASSETS, HOW DOES FARMING RANK WITH OTHER INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES?

- A. First place
- B. Fourth place
- C. Ninth place
- D. Twenty-fifth place

Rank your choices: _

1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. FIRST PLACE

Farming's \$671 billion worth of assets are roughly equal to three-fourths of the combined capital assets of all manufacturing corporations in the Nation.

B. FOURTH PLACE

Clues: Look at the property taxes and interest farmers pay in a year—\$3.5 billion in farm property taxes and \$4.0 billion in interest on farm mortgage debts.

C. NINTH PLACE

Clues: Farm families spend about \$82 billion annually for the goods and services required to produce crops and livestock. Feed and seed cost \$16.3 billion, and the bill for fertilizer and lime comes to \$6 billion.

D. TWENTY-FIFTH PLACE

Clues: In a year's time, farmers pay about \$9.6 billion for farm tractors, trucks and other motor vehicles, machinery, and equipment; and about \$7.3 billion for fuel, lubricants, repairs and operation of vehicles.

6. HOW DOES THE INCREASE IN OUTPUT PER WORKER IN FARMING COMPARE WITH THE INCREASE IN OUTPUT PER WORK IN MANUFACTURING?

A. Half as fast

B. About the same

C. Twice as fast

D. Five times as fast

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. HALF AS FAST

Fewer than 4 percent of Americans are farmers; yet they grow plenty of food for the Nation's people. Besides, we have enough food to ship large amounts to foreign countries.

B. ABOUT THE SAME

In farming the number of farm workers includes the farmer, the members of the family who work on the farm, and the hired labor. Farmers and their families provide two-thirds of the work force on farms.

C. TWICE AS FAST

The rapid growth in farm output shows why farmers grow 54 percent more crops on 3 percent fewer acres than did their fathers. And one farm worker feeds 56 people, up from 19 only 20 years ago.

D. FIVE TIMES AS FAST

Farmers surely would appreciate the compliment, and they eventually might do that well.

7. HOW DOES THE FOOD INDUSTRY RANK WITH OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN THE NUMBER OF WORKERS IT EMPLOYS?

A. First

B. Fifth

C. Tenth

D. Twenty-fifth

Rank your choices: __ _ _ _ _

1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. FIRST

The 14 to 17 million workers in the food industry makes it a huge employer. The 4.4 million who grow farm products are equivalent to the total employment in the transportation, steel, and automobile industries.

B. FIFTH

The food industry includes farming activities to produce crops and livestock, processing the food and getting it to consumers.

C. TENTH

Remember that one farm worker today raises enough food to feed himself and 56 other people. But it takes more people to process the farm products and get them to the consumer.

D. TWENTY-FIFTH

Bear in mind that the question involves the number of workers in the "food industry"—not just in growing crops and livestock.

8. OF THE FARMER'S MANY SKILLS, PICK THE ONE MOST CRUCIAL TO HIS SUCCESS TODAY:

A. How to grow crops

B. Business management

C. Operation of machines

D. Soil conservation

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. HOW TO GROW CROPS

Obviously, a crop farmer must know how to grow crops to succeed. But many farmers are primarily livestock producers, with crops secondary.

B. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Farming is a complex business that requires many decisions based on experience and ability. More farms go broke because of management errors than from any other cause.

C. OPERATION OF MACHINES

A farmer does need to know how to run and repair machines. Farming is now a highly mechanized operation—machines have taken the place of horses and manpower.

D. SOIL CONSERVATION

Soil conservation certainly is important. If the winds and water carry the topsoil away, there go the farmer's yields and profits.

9. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS NOT CORRECT? IF YOU WERE A FARMER, YOU WOULD EXPECT EXPORTS WOULD TAKE:

- A. More than half of your wheat
- B. One-fourth of your feed grains
- C. Forty percent of your soybeans
- D. Ten percent of your rice

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. MORE THAN HALF OF YOUR WHEAT

Farmers produced about 2.1 billion bushels of wheat in 1976. We used only about 700 to 800 million bushels of that here in the United States. So farmers looked for markets overseas for the rest.

B. ONE-FOURTH OF YOUR FEED GRAINS

Farmers raised about 6.2 billion bushels of corn, the main feed grain, in 1976. We found markets overseas for about 1.6 billion bushels. We produced about 212 million tons of all feed grains; needed to export about 55 million tons of it.

C. FORTY PERCENT OF YOUR SOYBEANS

Soybean growers raised about 1.3 billion bushels of soybeans in 1976. We sold about 525 million bushels overseas. Annually we export about 40 percent of our soybean production.

D. TEN PERCENT OF YOUR RICE

Rice farmers produced about 117 million hundredweight of rice in 1976. We use 42 to 43 million cwt. here in the United States. Rice farmers need to find export markets overseas for more than half of their production.

10. NATIONS THAT ARE RICHER AND MORE AFFLUENT USUALLY HAVE:

- A. More of their people raising food
- B. More of their income spent on food
- C. More small family farms
- D. Diets higher in proteins

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. MORE OF THEIR PEOPLE RAISING FOOD

As farmers become more productive, fewer of them are needed to raise the nation's food. This releases people to produce other goods and services which are important in measuring a nation's affluence.

B. MORE OF THEIR INCOME SPENT ON FOOD

If farmers are efficient, and a nation gets its food for a small part of its income, there's more money to spend in the production of other wealth. But this must be true efficiency, and not merely a policy of cheap food prices.

C. MORE SMALL FAMILY FARMS

One of the problems in many countries is that farms are too small. They are too small for farmers to make a decent living. They're too small for farmers to mechanize and become efficient. The farmers and the nation suffer.

D. DIETS HIGHER IN PROTEINS

As people become more affluent they eat a greater variety of foods, and especially more proteins. The diets in very poor nations are often high in starches.

11. WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS IS NOT CORRECT?

A. Farmers are getting younger

B. We lose about 25,000 farms a year

C. Most farmers live in the Midwest

D. Rural population is declining

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. FARMERS ARE GETTING YOUNGER

The average age of farmers is getting younger. The outlook for farming has been better in recent years, and country life has been more attractive. So more young people are staying on the farm.

B. WE LOSE ABOUT 25,000 FARMS A YEAR

We now have about 2.8 million farms in the United States. In 1950 we had twice as many. In 1950 to 1965 the number of farms declined by 100,000 to 200,000 per year. In recent years the number of farms has declined 15,000 to 30,000 per year.

C. MOST FARMERS LIVE IN THE MIDWEST

Of the 8.9 million farm people in 1975, 4 million lived in the Midwest from Ohio through Nebraska; and Wisconsin through Missouri. The South had the second largest number: 3.1 million. West: 1 million. Northeast: 0.6 million.

D. RURAL POPULATION IS DECLINING

The number of farms and farm people are going down slightly. But the people who live in rural areas—including towns and smaller cities—are going up in number. Many people who live in large cities say they'd like to live in rural areas.

12. BASED ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED THE LAST THREE YEARS, A FARMER THIS YEAR CAN EXPECT:

- A. His property taxes to drop
- B. His production costs to dip
- C. His prices to fluctuate
- D. His living costs to decline

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. HIS PROPERTY TAXES TO DROP

Between 1974 and 1976, farm real estate taxes rose 14 percent. There is every indication they will continue to rise.

B. HIS PRODUCTION COSTS TO DIP

From 1974 to 1976, farmers' cost of producing food jumped 20 percent. The prices farmers pay are continuing to rise.

C. HIS PRICES TO FLUCTUATE

When industrial prices go up, they usually stay up. But farm prices fluctuate widely; they go up and down. You can't predict in agriculture what farm prices will do in the future based on what they've done lately.

D. HIS LIVING COSTS TO DECLINE

Farmers' living expenses went up 15% between 1974 and 1976, as they did for others in the nation.

13. WHAT IS THE AVERAGE INCOME FARM PEOPLE HAVE LEFT FOR THE YEAR AFTER PAYING FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAXES AND SOCIAL SECURITY?

A. Below \$5,000

B. Slightly under \$8,000

C. Slightly over \$11,000

D. More than \$35,000

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. BELOW \$5,000

Farm peoples' per person income—after taxes—averaged \$4,518 in 1976. About \$1,915 came from the farm and \$2,603 from nonfarm sources. This was about 18½ percent below the national average for all people.

B. SLIGHTLY UNDER \$8,000

This was the amount of realized net income per farm from farming in 1976 after paying farm expenses. The question asks about income per person from both farming and nonfarm earnings.

C. SLIGHTLY OVER \$11,000

This was the average income per farm from nonfarm earnings in 1976. Included are wages, salaries, interest, and dividends earned by farm families.

D. MORE THAN \$35,000

Farmers did gross about \$37,000 per farm from crops, livestock and other farm income in 1976. However, production expenses averaged \$29,418 per farm. The question is about income per person, not income per farm.

14. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE OFTEN USED FARM TERM CALLED PARITY?

A. Very few really know

B. It measures par

C. Farmers on charity

D. Measures farm income

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. VERY FEW REALLY KNOW

It's the farm price for a bushel of wheat (or other farm product) that will buy the same amount of consumer and farm production goods as that bushel would buy in some past period, basically 1910-14.

B. IT MEASURES PAR

Par refers to the nominal value of a stock, and par designates equality. In some places it means peel or pare, as in "ahm gonna par me an apple." Some people don't feel up to par; but as you get older that's par for the course.

C. FARMERS ON CHARITY

If farmers suffer too much from a drop in parity, they might end up on charity.

D. MEASURES FARM INCOME

Parity measures the buying power of a single bushel or pound of a farm product. Farm income measures total dollars from all the bushels or pounds produced. Yields per acre and output per animal affect income as much as parity prices.

- 15. WHEN U.S. FARMERS SELL FOOD ABROAD, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE NATION'S ECONOMY USUALLY IS:
 - A. Rising bread prices
 - B. Added profits for farmers
 - C. More non-farm goods for people
 - D. U.S. food shortages

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. RISING BREAD PRICES

Wheat sales to other nations influence bread prices only mildly, if at all, unless wheat is scarce and a great deal is exported. The wheat in a 35-cent loaf of bread in 1977 cost about 2½ cents.

B. ADDED PROFITS FOR FARMERS

Selling food abroad does tend to increase income for farmers. This helps keep farmers in business so they can meet their costs, invest in good farming practices, and keep producing.

C. MORE NON-FARM GOODS FOR PEOPLE

In 1976, U.S. farmers sold about \$23 billion worth of agricultural products abroad—\$12 billion more than we imported. The trade balance allowed us to buy much-needed crude oil, minerals and many other goods important to consumers.

D. U.S. FOOD SHORTAGES

We use only about 40 percent of the wheat our farmers raise; about half the rice; and three-fourths of the feed grains. If we didn't export the rest, we'd have huge surpluses.

16. HOW MUCH MONEY DO FARMERS IN THE UNITED STATES SPEND ANNUALLY FOR GOODS AND SERVICES USED TO GROW CROPS AND LIVESTOCK?

- A. Almost \$8 billion
- B. Nearly \$10 billion
- C. About \$16 billion

D. More than \$80 billion

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. ALMOST \$8 BILLION

Farmers pay about \$7.3 billion annually for fuel, lubricants, and maintenance for machinery and motor vehicles used in the farm business. Farming uses more petroleum than any other single industry.

B. NEARLY \$10 BILLION

The bill comes to \$9.6 billion just for farm tractors, trucks and other motor vehicles, machinery and equipment. It takes about 140,000 workers to make this equipment.

C. ABOUT \$16 BILLION

Seeds and animal feeds cost farmers about \$16.2 billion yearly. Farmers spend another \$6.2 billion on fertilizers and lime.

D. MORE THAN \$80 BILLION

Among the farmer's purchases are enough rubber to put tires on 7 million automobiles and enough electrical power to supply the residential needs of all New England States plus Maryland, Kentucky, and Washington, D.C.

17. HOW MANY PEOPLE—IN ADDITION TO FARMERS—ARE EMPLOYED IN THE FOOD AND FIBER BUSINESS?

A. About 250,000

B. Nearly 400,000

C. Half a million

D. More than 10 million

Rank your choices:

1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Circle your score:

5 3 1 0

A. ABOUT 250,000

The baking industry alone employs more than 250,000 workers, with a payroll of \$2.3 billion a year. Included are plants for making bread, biscuits and crackers.

B. NEARLY 400,000

Almost that many people work in cotton mills and finishing plants and in canning, curing and freezing foods. The 380,000 people in these businesses have payrolls of \$2.6 billion per year.

C. HALF A MILLION

The meat, poultry and dairy industries alone employ more workers than that—503,000 people with combined payrolls of \$4.3 billion a year. These workers move, store, process, pack and market your food and fiber.

D. MORE THAN 10 MILLION

Between 8 and 10 million people have jobs storing, transporting, processing and merchandising farm output. Another 2 million people provide seeds, fertilizers and other supplies for farmers.

- 18. FARMERS ARE GROUPED BY THE AMOUNT OF FARM PRODUCTS THEY SELL IN A YEAR. WHICH GROUP HAS THE MOST FARMS?
 - A. \$40,000 or more per farm
 - B. \$5,000 to \$9,999 per farm
 - C. \$2,500 to \$4,999 per farm
 - D. Below \$2,500 per farm

Rank your choices:

1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. \$40,000 OR MORE PER FARM

About 1.1 million farms sold \$10,000 or more of farm products in 1976. This is 39 percent of the 2.78 million farms in the U.S. Of these, about 462,000 had sales of more than \$40,000 per year.

B. \$5,000 to \$9,999 PER FARM

A total of 298,000 farms, 10.7 percent of all U.S. farms, sold farm products worth from \$5,000 to \$9,999 in 1976.

C. \$2,500 to \$4,900 PER FARM

A total of 313,000 farms, 11.3 percent of all U.S. farms, sold farm products valued between \$2,500 and \$4,999 in 1976.

D. BELOW \$2,500 PER FARM

About 1.08 million of the Nation's 2.78 million farms sold \$2,500 or less of farm products in 1976.

19. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT PRICE SUPPORTS ON CROPS IS TO:

A. Ensure the farmer a profit

B. Help lowest income farmers

C. Remove the risk from farming

D. Offset severe price dips

Rank your choices: ______

1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. ENSURE THE FARMER A PROFIT

Price supports—whether in the form of direct payments or crop loans—give participating farmers some income protection. Farm expenses, low yields, poor marketing, disease, drouth or floods will affect the farmer's income.

B. HELP LOWEST INCOME FARMERS

While lowest income farmers benefit, price support programs help all farmers growing that crop, regardless of their income levels. There usually are limits on large payments to individual farmers, however.

C. REMOVE THE RISK FROM FARMING

Nobody has figured out how to make success in farming a sure bet. Although price supports may soften certain farming risks, this is not their primary purpose. There are many risks in farming besides the risk of low prices.

D. OFFSET SEVERE PRICE DIPS

Crop price supports pay farmers so much a bushel or pound for some crops if average prices fall below certain levels. Farmers can also get government loans on some crops to enable them to hold the crop until market conditions improve.

20. READING ABOUT CURRENT EVENTS HELPS FARMERS PRIMARILY BECAUSE EVENTS BEYOND THE FARMS INFLUENCE THEIR:

- A. Management decisions
- B. Knowledge of history
- C. Understanding of people
- D. Styles of living

Circle your score: 5 3 1 0

A. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Which crops and livestock—and how much a farmer should produce often depend on national and world events. Drought in a far-away land, or other events, can change the demand and price.

B. KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY

Knowledge of history is important to anyone who wants to be well informed. Would knowledge of history or knowledge of weather be more critical to a corn grower's income?

C. UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLE

Understanding people is important to a farmer, as it is to any businessman. Would understanding people be more important to a salesman's success than to a livestock producer?

D. STYLES OF LIVING

Although reading does have an impact on the lifestyles of people, is this the farmer's primary reason for reading?

CORRECT ANSWERS BUSINESS OF FARMING

1. B	6. C	11. D	16. D
2. B	7. A	12. C	17. D
3. D	8. B	13. A	18. D
4. C	9. D	14. A	19. D
5. A	10. D	15. C	20. A

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EXHIBIT

If you would like to take a similar quiz at the U.S. Department of Agriculture exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, the quiz will be there throughout 1978. The Museum, at 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, which houses a fabulous collection of educational exhibits, is open every day of the year except Christmas.

More than four million people visit the Museum each year, spending an average of 3½ hours each

with the various exhibits. . .

The U.S. Department of Agriculture exhibit, which will be at the Museum permanently, is built around the theme, "Your Five Acres." It shows that the nation now has an average of five acres of farmland per person, down from eleven acres a number of years ago. The average will become even less than five acres as population grows. What that means to you is depicted graphically in the exhibit.

A fast-paced TV-type show on a huge panel called "You Bet Your Crop," in which a slick quizmaster interviews a farmer about his business, is one of the highlights of all the Museum exhibits.

You can also get an interesting booklet about the facts in the exhibit, entitled "The Secret of Affluence." Either ask for it at the Museum front office or write, Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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Want to know more about farm business, Ic

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